

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The abstract and the specification of the application have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. No new matter has been added. Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract and the specification by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned “**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**”

In items 2 and 3 of the Office Action of April 3, 2008, claims 1-7 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soulier (US 5,394,141). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites transmitter means electrically connected to a cable and to a tubular element and/or an underground formation, and receiver means electrically connected to the cable and secondly to the tubular element and/or the underground formation, wherein the cable is a portion of a loop for conveying an electrical and/or electromagnetic signal between the transmitter means and the receiver means. This is not disclosed in Soulier.

Soulier discloses an apparatus for transmitting information which uses a dipole transmitter to communicate with a surface transceiver. Soulier discloses a device where an electrical signal is applied between two points P1 and P2 along a metal pipework (the drill string or the casing), as indicated in Figures 2, 3, and 7 (showing embodiments), Figures 9 and 10 (showing electrical schematics), and in the specification (e.g. column 3, lines 47-53). Thus, Soulier does not disclose a transmitter means and a receiver means electrically connected to the cable and to the drill string or casing (i.e. the tubular element) and/or the underground formation.

Further, Soulier does not disclose the limitation that the cable constitutes a portion of a loop for conveying an electrical and/or electromagnetic signal between the

transmitter means and the receiver means. In the first embodiment (Figures 2 and 3), there is no cable joining the transmitter means and receiver means. In the other embodiments, there is no disclosure that the cable constitutes a portion of a loop for conveying an electrical and/or electromagnetic signal between the transmitter means and the receiver means.

So, the present invention as recited in claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Soulier, and it would not have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify Soulier so as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly allowable over the prior art of record, as are claims 2-7 and 10-16 depending therefrom.

In item 4, claims 8 and 9 are indicated as allowable. The Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruno LE BRIERE et al.

By 

Aldo A. D'Ottavio
Registration No. 59,559
Agent for Applicants

AAD/DMO/led
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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